



Wastewater Operator Training Program

*Office of Wastewater Management
Municipal Support Division
Municipal Assistance Branch*

June 10, 2008.

Wastewater Treatment in the US

- 14,000 wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) discharge < 5 million gallons per day (MGD)
- 11,000 WWTPs discharge < 1 MGD



2

The Top Five Reasons POTW's Fail

- Excessive Infiltration & Inflow
- Lack of financial and managerial support
- Laboratory issues
- Poor understanding and application of process controls by the operator
- Solids handling and sludge disposal



3

Wastewater Operator Training Program

- Section 104(g)(1) of the CWA (1982 amendments)
- Targets non-compliance at small (< 5 MGD) publicly owned wastewater treatment plants (POTWs)
- How does it work?
 - Provides trainers at no cost to operators of POTWs
 - Provides assistance related to operation and maintenance, financial and management
 - Assistance is on-site and hands-on

4

Wastewater Operator Training Program

- Targets small facilities
 - 800 facilities assisted on average annually
- Provides funding for training to 46 grantees
 - states or state designated non-profit agencies.
- Average federal cost per assistance project is approximately \$1,800
- Prevents discharge of more than four million pounds of pollutants

5

Wastewater Operator Training Program

- Goals
 - Achieve and maintain long-term permit compliance
 - Improve performance at facilities struggling to comply
- Results: > 85% of facilities achieve AND maintain long-term permit compliance or improve performance

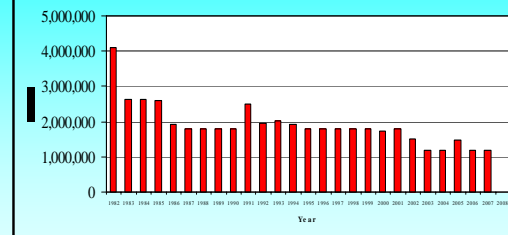
6

Results and Reporting

- Environmental results reporting is critical k4
- Annual report typically includes:
 - Number of facilities assisted
 - Pounds of pollutant removed
- 2008 change in reporting period from calendar year to fiscal year k5
- Reporting formats: MS Excel (preferred) and MS Access

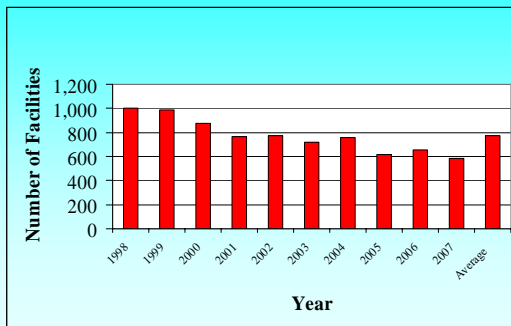
7

104(g) Yearly Funding History Starting from 1982



8

Facilities Assisted Each Year



9

Wastewater Operator Training Program

National Conference

- Good and bad experiences of fellow trainers
- Newly developed tools to assist trainers
- Shared experiences between national training centers
- Presentations from experts on new technologies and operational strategies
- Special workshops

Future Conferences

- 2008 Conference funded from FY 2007 funds
- EPA wants to support future conferences

Wastewater Operator Training Program

National Conference

- Good and bad experiences of fellow trainers
- Newly developed tools to assist trainers
- Shared experiences between national training centers
- Presentations from experts on new technologies and operational strategies
- Special workshops

Future Conferences

- 2008 Conference funded from FY 2007 funds
- EPA wants to support future conferences

11

104(g) Funding

- Funding appropriated directly by Congress
 - Provides EPA ability to fund states directly
 - EPA HQ and Regions provide support
- Congress did not appropriate funds in FY 2008

12

Slide 7

- Ik4** Why is data reporting so critical? Should tell audience that.
Lance, 6/1/2008
- Ik5** Why the change and what does it mean for reporting and the program?
Lance, 6/1/2008

104(g) Without Federal Funding

- One State plans to continue providing on-site technical assistance
- Four States plan to provide assistance at a reduced level
- Rest of the States do not plan to continue this program

13

EPA assistance without 104(g) funds

Given reduced appropriations, what can EPA do to serve small POTWs?

- Software (e.g. CUPSS)
- Educational materials
- Technical assistance (e.g. helpline?)
- What do you think?

14

Thanks for coming to the
conference

Please enjoy the rest of the
conference.

F:\104g\national conf\2008 conf\rev2

15